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INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COUNTRY USSR

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SUBJECT Political Information: Activities of Some Leading Soviet Officials in Moscow

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Note: The following rumors were spread in Shanghai prior to [redacted] by members of the Soviet Mission to Siam.)

1. Stalin is suffering from complicated arteriosclerosis, and by special request of members of the Politburo he is staying at the Black Sea resort of Sochi for an absolute rest; during Stalin's absence from Moscow, "external" affairs of the USSR are being conducted without Stalin, who is consulted only on general policy.
2. At present three members of the Politburo - Zhdanov, Malenkov and Mikoyan - are in charge of USSR foreign policy; Molotov is subordinate to these men. The London Conference is probably Molotov's last appearance as Minister of Foreign Affairs. It is rumored that early in 1948 Malenkov or Manuilski will replace Molotov after a period in which the post will be vacant, with Gusev acting as Foreign Minister.
3. Bogomolov, Soviet Ambassador to France, will be recalled in disgrace and dismissed.
4. Feelings of depression and confusion prevail among members of the Central Committee of the Communist Party in Moscow. Anxiety over the condition of Stalin's health leads to a considerable regrouping of the various inner groups of the Central Committee, as no one man is marked as the legal successor of Stalin and no one man would be unanimously recognized as Stalin's successor. At present Malenkov dominates the Party stage, but he is hated by many members and is on extremely bad terms with Molotov. Molotov has outlived his usefulness, as he acted only as a secretary to Stalin, who directed foreign affairs himself. As Molotov has been occupied exclusively with routine matters of the Foreign Affairs Ministry, he is "marked as a bureaucrat who long ago disassociated himself from Central Committee inner policy".
5. At present the Central Committee of the Party, through Malenkov, controls the placement of personnel of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Young, especially trained members of the Communist Party who have been approved by Malenkov have been placed in key positions in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs without the knowledge of Molotov and other leading officials of the Foreign Affairs Ministry, who must cope with the sudden appearance in the Ministry of new functionaries. Practically the same process is going on in other key ministries in Moscow. This preparation is being made to meet the situation when Stalin will "resign de facto from leadership" in order that the grip of the Party can embrace the entire "apparatus" (machine or organizational mechanism) of the government.

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